

RIOT ON FLOOR OF LEGISLATURE

OKLAHOMA FORGETS ITS DIGNITY AND INDULGES IN FIST FIGHTS.

EPITHETS START HOSTILITIES

Trouble Comes Up in Debate on Literacy Clause in Election Law—Measure Favored by Democrats Passes, 53 to 34.

Oklahoma City, Ok.—Arthur H. Geissler, chairman of the Republican state central committee, was knocked down and rendered unconscious for a few minutes on the "side line" of the floor of the house of representatives, while it was in session. Geissler was struck by Representative Louis E. Bryant of Bigheart, Osage county.

The striking of Geissler was the climax of riotous scenes which attended the voting on a section of the proposed election law, the chief feature of which is a literacy test for all voters. The proposed law is designed to take the place of the statute recently declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court.

The proposed law is the product of a democratic caucus. It had passed the senate and was up for final passage in the house, with Republican and Socialist members offering vigorous opposition. Geissler was on the floor through the courtesy of a visitor's permit, issued him as Republican state chairman.

Representative Paul Nesbitt (Dem.) of Pittsburg county, had voted in favor of the proposed law and as he announced his vote, Representative Sams (Rep.) taunted Nesbitt with being "unfair" to Republicans. Nesbitt replied that he was raised in a section where the Republicans had overriden him with corrupt practices, and that he had no desire to be fair to Republicans.

"Crook" and "Liar." "They probably thought you were the crook that you are!" shouted Sams.

"If you make that charge you are a liar," replied Nesbitt. Sams arose in his seat, and striking an attitude of defiance shouted toward the Democratic section of the house, "Come on."

In an instant every Republican member and every Democratic member of the house was on his feet. Ink bottles, books, paper weights were fired back and forth between the belligerents. The Democratic members advanced through the aisles toward the Republican members and the speaker of the house, A. C. McCrory, left his chair and rushed out of the executive hall. The Democrats greatly outnumbered the Republican combatants, and after the harmless volley of books had been thrown the melee died out of its own accord.

When the vote was completed the session carried, 53 to 34.

ENGLISH CARTOONIST FINED

Showed British Soldier Asleep Beneath a Tree Clinging Bottle of Rum.

London, England.—The proprietors of the weekly journal Bystander were fined \$500, the former editor, Vivian Carter, \$250, and Lieut. Bernard, cartoonist, \$250, for publishing a cartoon depicting a British soldier lying intoxicated beneath a tree and clapping a bottle of rum. Beneath the cartoon were the words, "Reported Missing."

The charge was brought on the ground that publication of the cartoon was prejudicial to discipline and recruiting. An appeal was entered.

MINE CONFERENCE IN RECESS

Soft Coal Diggers and Operators to Renew Wage Sessions Next Week.

Mobile, Alabama.—The joint conference of operators and miners of the central competitive bituminous fields of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, unable to agree upon a wage scale, voted to take a recess until next Thursday at New York. They will meet at the same place where the joint anthracite conference begins next Monday.

Sends Sword to President. Washington.—S. A. Walden, a Confederate veteran of Murfreesboro, Tenn., who wrote that he was 60 years old, but not too old to fight, sent President Wilson a sword made of cedar from the Stone River battlefield as an evidence of his interest in the preparedness program.

Storm Causes Hamburg Flood. Berlin.—Reports from the north coast indicate that considerable damage was done by a storm Wednesday night which caused an unusually high tide. Portions of Hamburg near the water front were flooded.

Iowa Publisher Vanishes in Chicago. Chicago.—Scott Laird, 37 years old, publisher of a paper at Oelwein, Ia., has disappeared from a hotel here, leaving behind his coat, hat and other belongings. Efforts to find any trace of him have failed.

Wide Baby Week Observance. Washington, D. C.—More than 1,700 communities throughout the country are preparing to observe Baby Week, March 4 to 11, it was announced at the Federal Children's bureau.

University Students Vaccinated. Minneapolis, Minn.—More than 300 students of the University of Minnesota were ordered vaccinated, following the discovery that Stafford King, junior law student, was suffering from smallpox.

FRENCH SOLDIERS FIRING AT ZEPPELIN



These French soldiers are trying to drive away a German Zeppelin that is hovering over Nancy and dropping bombs on that city.

SEEK ANARCHIST PLOTTERS

CRONES' TAUNTS IN LETTERS SPUR NEW YORK SEARCH.

Detectives Redouble Efforts in Hunt for Man Wanted for Poisoning Soup at Chicago Banquet.

New York, N. Y.—Spurred by a second letter taunting the police for their inability to find him, detectives searched New York for Jean Crones, anarchist, wanted for the attempted poisoning of 300 guests at the Mundein banquet in Chicago. That Crones is seeking safety from capture by mingling daily with the metropolitan crowds, meanwhile planning further attempts against society, was the belief of Police Captain Tunney of the bomb squad, directing the search.

The second letter, supposedly from Crones, addressed to a New York newspaper, flouted the public and was marked by his finger prints. The letter welcomed the coming of the Chicago detectives to help in the search for him, asserting Crones had something to "let go" when they arrived. Police trailed the letter back to the station where the stamp was canceled and decided it was mailed in an office building mail chute or a street box. Special details of detectives went through the district where the letters were believed to have been mailed.

BRITAIN SELLS STEEL BONDS

Were Held in Carnegie Foundation in Scotland and Were Disposed of Under New Fiscal Plan.

New York, N. Y.—The British government has sold to the United States Steel Corporation \$22,800,000 of the first mortgage 5 per cent bonds of that corporation, it was announced here. The bonds were held in Carnegie Foundation in Scotland for trust fund purposes, and were sold by the foundation recently at the request of the British government under its security mobilization plan.

LORD DERBY FEARS SEA RAID

Declares That British Navy and Army Will Not Be Able to Stop Germans Altogether.

Liverpool, England.—"I have always believed," said Lord Derby, director of recruiting, at a workmen's mass meeting here, "that sooner or later the Germans will attempt a great sea raid on this country, and that, however, well organized the navy is, it will not be able to stop it, but I believe the army and navy are now so co-ordinated that even if a raid comes it will be practically inoperative and that those who come will be wiped out."

\$78,250,000 for Prussian Railroads.

Berlin.—An appropriation of \$78,250,000 for the Prussian state railroads is provided in a bill introduced in the Prussian Diet. The money is to be used for construction of new tracks and branch lines, completion of several lines, and for new cars.

Will Raise American Battalion.

Winnipeg, Man.—The military authorities have given authorization for the raising of an American battalion in this city, to be known as the 212th, it was announced here. Maj. Pitman, now with the American Legion in Toronto, will be in command.

Reprieved as Warrant is Read.

Houston, Tex.—Henry J. Tengel, a negro, convicted of assault, was reprieved just as Sheriff Hammond was reading the death warrant. The negro would have been dead five minutes later. The respite gives him 30 days more of life.

Widow of J. E. McDonald Dies.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Mrs. Joseph E. McDonald, widow of Joseph E. McDonald, former United States senator, is dead here. She was 80 years old.

Zinc Ore \$130 a Ton.

Joplin, Mo.—Zinc ore is selling today at \$130 a ton, \$5 more than last week, and within that amount of the highest figures in history. Two years ago zinc ore was \$35 a ton. The high prices are due to the great demand for metal because of the war.

Stumbles and is Blown to Pieces.

Charleston, W. Va.—W. S. Roberts, 50 years old, of Marietta, O., fell while carrying two cans of nitroglycerin at St. Albans and was blown to pieces by the explosion which followed.

Bill Limiting Liquor Signed.

Jackson, Miss.—Gov. Bilbo signed a bill limiting the amount of liquor any one person may import into the state to one quart of whisky, 24 pints of beer or two quarts of light wine, every 15 days.

WILSON'S STAND APPROVED

BOTH PARTIES BACK PRESIDENT IN U-BOAT CASE.

Two Branches of Government Considering New Move in Dispute Over Attacks on Armed Liners.

Washington, D. C.—Two branches of the American government considered formulation of policies regarding submarine warfare. With negotiations between the state department and the German embassy apparently at a standstill for the moment, President Wilson and his cabinet and the senate debated the nation's future course.

Support from both Republicans and Democrats in the senate was promised for the administration's stand against recognition of Germany's new admiralty order to sink armed merchantmen without warning, beginning March 1.

The cabinet meeting had to consider the question of whether a formal protest would be made to Germany against the new decree. It was believed the administration would decide against a preliminary protest and await actual developments.

Administration leaders professed to place little reliance in suggestions from German Ambassador Bernstorff that Germany might postpone the proposed campaign against armed merchant vessels. State department officials believed Bernstorff's suggestion was made on his own responsibility, without authority of the Berlin foreign office and prompted by a desire to get immediate settlement of the Lusitania case.

Germany, though displeased by this government's delay in accepting the Lusitania concessions, was not likely to withdraw her last note and terms of settlement, it was thought.

Washington, D. C.—The Swedish government, in reply to the German and Austrian proclamation that armed merchantmen will be attacked without warning after Feb. 29, has issued a warning to Swedish citizens not to travel on such vessels.

BLAST IN MUNITION FACTORY

Picric Acid (Used in Explosives) Plant at Syracuse, N. Y., Was Under Heavy Guard.

Syracuse, N. Y.—Four persons were killed, at least a dozen others injured, some seriously, and heavy property damage was caused by an explosion in the Split Rock plant of the Semet-Solvay Company.

The plant, which was developed since the outbreak of the European war, is one of the largest in the country engaged in the manufacture of picric acid, which is used in explosives and synthetic dyes. It has been heavily guarded day and night.

The cause of the explosion has not been ascertained.

Ship to Be Named Edith Cavell.

New York.—The Brazilian steamer Tropico, recently has been purchased by a British company, and will be renamed the Edith Cavell, in memory of the English nurse executed by the Germans in Belgium. Another British steamer named Edith Cavell, formerly the Wagner, left Cadiz, Jan. 10 for New York.

\$51,460,000 Gold Reaches America.

San Francisco, Cal.—The Japanese cruisers Chitose and Tokiwa, on board which is said to be \$51,460,000 in gold specie for the purchase of war supplies for Russia, have arrived at Victoria, B. C., from Japan, according to a telegram received here by a Japanese newspaper.

Two Guilty of Passport Frauds.

London.—Mitchell Dallas, a clerk in the home office, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey, and Joseph Alami was found guilty of conspiring to obtain money in connection with the issue of passports to aliens.

Spain Gets Teutonic Ships.

Madrid, Spain.—It is officially stated that the negotiations by which the government proposed to acquire Austro-German vessels interned in Spanish ports had ended successfully.

Women Left Off Grand Jurors.

Redwood City, Cal.—San Mateo county, which for three years has placed women on grand juries, went back to the old order of things and drew a list of 36 men. Doubt as to the legality of women grand jurors was responsible.

Corporal is Found Dead.

Brownsville, Tex.—Corporal Frank J. Harrington, 37 years old, of the Fourth United States Infantry, was found dead at Fort Brown, his body pierced by a rifle bullet.

PRISONERS SLAY SHERIFF AND FLEE

TRUSTY OVERPOWERS TURNKEY AND LOCKS HIM IN CELL; PICKS LOCK.

MAKE QUICK RAID ON ARMORY

Fugitives Are Finally Surrounded by Posse, But Refuse to Surrender Even After Exchange of Many Shots and Killing Felon.

Deming, N. M.—Dwight Stevens, sheriff of Luna county, N. M., and Joe Cranston, a prisoner, were killed, and Buck Sevier, a Deming business man, and J. O. Starr, another prisoner, were wounded in a battle near Rincon, N. M., with escaped prisoners from the Deming jail. The prisoners made their escape after locking up the jailer and telephoning for an automobile, in which they fled.

The five prisoners who escaped were: Francisco Acosta, accused of murder; J. O. Starr and G. Schmidt, alleged burglars; William D. Ashley, charged with forgery, and Cranston, who was held as a vagrant.

Set Upon by Trusty.

The ruse of the prisoners for effecting their escape was clever. When the jailer entered the "run around" to take breakfast to the prisoners he was set upon by a trusty, a youth about 20 years old, who overpowered him and took his keys.

The trusty at once liberated all the other prisoners, and then the prisoners locked the jailer in one of the cells and, going to the telephone, called up a garage and asked that an automobile be sent at once to the jail.

"It is the sheriff talking," the prisoner using the telephone said, "and we want to take a sick man to Payson Springs. Bring an extra tire and \$20 in change."

When the automobile reached the jail the driver was invited inside the jail, where he was seized and locked up. Five of the prisoners, locking the jail door, got into the car.

Cranston, the only prisoner acquainted with the operation of an automobile, took the wheel and first drove to the armory of the Deming militia company, and, looting it of rifles and ammunition the prisoners set out in the machine in the direction of Rincon, to the northeast.

The jailer, locked up by the prisoners, himself broke jail by picking a lock, and notified Sheriff Stevens. The sheriff organized a posse and, filling volunteer automobiles with citizens, set out in pursuit of the prisoners.

Overtaking the prisoners near Rincon, a battle took place between the posse and the prisoners.

After the sheriff and Cranston had been killed and the two other men wounded, the other fugitives got the automobile and sought shelter by running for the woods near by, where they soon obtained the protection of the small cottonwood trees that grow very thick in that vicinity.

Says Villa Sought American.

El Paso, Tex.—Details related by passengers from Chihuahua tended to confirm previous reports that Francisco Villa was looking for two Americans when he held up a train recently.

Suit to Construe Will.

Chicago, Ill.—Suit to construe the will of the late Charles Edward Kohl, theatrical magnate, was filed in the United States district court by John P. Kohl of Boston, Mass.

Cow Breaks Butter Record.

Montpelier, Vt.—The production of 35.13 pounds of butter in seven days by a registered Holstein cow owned by Dr. J. G. Whitney was declared by officials at the Vermont state experiment station to be a world's record for a one-week test.

Keg of Beer Kills Man.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A quarter keg of beer slipped from the grasp of several men who were carrying it up the stairs during a party and killed John Strang, 26 years old.

Baby Born After Death.

New York.—Two minutes after Mrs. Mary Dooley's death a baby was brought into the world by a Caesarian operation. It was performed at the city hospital in Jersey City.

Princeton Gets Big Bequest.

Princeton, N. J.—Princeton university has been bequeathed between \$50,000 and \$100,000 by the will of Mrs. Marie Antoinette Fliske, who died in Pasadena, Cal. President Hibben made the announcement.

Progressive Offer Rejected.

San Francisco.—A compromise proposal between the Republicans and Progressives of California in the nomination of California delegates to the Republican national convention was rejected.

Francis' Decision Deferred.

Washington, D. C.—David R. Francis of St. Louis will notify President Wilson whether he will accept the post of ambassador to Russia. Mr. Francis would succeed George T. Marry, whose resignation has been accepted.

Pelts Priest With Eggs.

Baltimore, Md.—Because she did not like the sermon and accurately hurled six eggs at the preacher's head, Annie Mokuana, 19 years old, was before Magistrate Saylor in the Western station. She was freed.

Undyed Hats for Spring.

Danbury, Conn.—Necessity is the mother and the manufacturers are the father of a new style in hats. Owing to the great shortage in dyes, several hat factories are getting out samples of undyed hats for spring wear.

ROADS FORBIDDEN TO RAISE RATES

COURT HOLDS SERVICE BODY HAS NO POWER TO UP-SET STATUTE.

RAIL LINES TO TAKE APPEAL

New Rates Would Have Been Effective March 1, But Judge Says Maximum Rate Has Been Fixed by Legislature.

Jefferson City.

An appeal to the supreme court will be taken from the ruling of Judge State of the Cole County Circuit Court that the public service commission has no power to change a maximum rate fixed by the legislature. Under the last order of the commission, the date for the new rates to become effective was fixed as March 1. Most of the roads have filed their schedules under this order, which provides for an increase of 5 per cent in freight rates and one-half a cent per mile for passengers not using 1,000-mile tickets.

The order of Judge State automatically will prevent the railroads from putting the higher rates into effect until the supreme court takes final action on the constitutional question.

Judge State ruled that the Wabash and the Chicago & Alton Railroads cannot maintain separate litigation in his court, involving the power of the commission to make and enforce higher freight and passenger rates. Both companies sought to have the order dismissing the proceedings against all the railroads so modified as not to apply to them. This the court also denied.

M. E. Rhodes was attorney for the shippers.

Land Bank Promises Cheap Money.

The Gardner State Land Bank Act foreshadows a day of redemption for Missouri's land owning farmers. The purpose of this act is to encourage agriculture and the development and improvement of farm lands in Missouri. These are commendable objects and are worthy the support of all citizens who have the welfare of the state at heart.

The state of Missouri comes to the rescue of its own struggling landowners by proposing to advance the sum of one million dollars as a loan. Of this amount, \$500,000 is to be loaned to farmers on first mortgages at 4 per cent interest, and one-half per cent in addition for the purpose of establishing a reserve fund. This plan aims to give loans to farmers on mortgages at the cheap rate of 4 1/2 per cent.

On this basis no commission nor renewal charges can be made; and the farmer himself determines what his annual or semi-annual payments shall be and how long the loan shall run, which cannot be less than five years nor more than 25 years. All fear of foreclosure is removed as long as the payments are made regularly, and every precaution is taken to protect the borrower against injustice and the investor against loss.

The principle set forth in the land bank literature cites numerous cases and examples of exactly how the act will take effect. The borrower himself is allowed to fix the amount he wishes to borrow, within reason, and when he makes an interest payment he also reduces the amount of the principal until at the expiration of a given period, principal and interest have both automatically disappeared.

Robbery Sentence Upheld.

The sentence of five years in the penitentiary imposed on Thomas Ferguson, who was convicted of robbing a street car conductor in St. Louis and was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary, was upheld by the supreme court.

Power Company Gets Permit.

The public service commission issued a certificate to the Western Power and Light Co., giving it permission to carry out its contract for the lighting of Maplewood.

The Electric Co. of Missouri opposed the granting of the certificate on the ground that the entry would cause ruinous competition.

Court Asked to Stop Vote.

An application for an injunction against the election commissioners of St. Louis was filed in the supreme court to prevent the special election then on Feb. 29 on a proposition to segregate the negroes into a certain section of the city. The court has the matter under advisement.

Whitely Conviction Upheld.

Judge Paris of the supreme court upheld the sentence of a lower court that David Whitely must serve life sentence for killing W. H. Schaeper of St. Louis, March 22, 1914.

Hadley's Health Bad.

Former Governor Herbert S. Hadley has advised friends in the capital that he will not make the race for the Republican nomination for the United States senate, for the reason that his physician tells him that he should not endanger his health.

"Frat" Enemy Attacked.

W. C. Martin, of Lamar, Mo., a student at the University of Missouri and editor of the Research, was attacked by four unidentified men and taken in an auto to a bridge near the university and dropped off. He was found unconscious by J. N. Torbit and taken to the Parker hospital. His back was sprained. Only two issues of the Research have appeared, and one denounced university athletics, and the other charged that the fraternities at Columbia are immoral. The perpetrators are not in custody.

Calla Stockholders "Gesse."

Coincident with the withdrawal of the motion filed for rehearing by the Frisco reorganization committee, the public service commission has received B. F. Yoakum's brief commenting upon the plan of the New York financiers for reorganizing the road.

At one point in the brief it is declared that the "stockholders are geese to be plucked and they will be lucky if their feathers hold out." This was said in a discussion of the reorganization expenses.

The Yoakum brief, which was prepared by Senator James A. Reed, S. S. Gregory, Martin W. Littleton and Salmon O. Levinson, was compiled and mailed in ignorance of the fact that the Seligman and Speyer concerns, reorganization managers, had mailed notices to the commission to withdraw their motion for a rehearing opposed in the Yoakum brief.

Attorneys for the reorganization managers advised the commission that it is their intention to "bring out a plan which they trust will be considered by the commission to conform to their views."

The Yoakum brief assails the contention made by H. S. Priest and R. T. Swaine in their motion for the rehearing, that the commission is a purely administrative body with no discretionary power.

Touching the argument advanced by the attorneys for reorganization, that the commission was without jurisdiction to inquire into the disposition of securities or to concern itself with the details of the plan, the Yoakum brief says that this question is one of the oldest quibbles ever raised as to the legality of any plan of action, and that it is resorted to only when there is no other hope of gaining the ends sought.

Many Prisoners Paroled.

Owing to the congested condition of the Missouri penitentiary, the pardon board has considered many applications for parole and pardon in the past few weeks. So many recommendations have been made to the chief executive that he has exercised his privileges freely, and numerous felons (?) are now enjoying clemency. More good can be accomplished in this manner than in the overhauling insistence on the full payment of the sum of flesh. First offenders are usually given another chance to make good in the world before they are utterly condemned. The governor will make many friends if he continues to exercise his prerogatives in a merciful manner.

Three Governors at Rally.

Word comes that three governors will be the principal orators at the big meeting in Mexico on March 3, which is being arranged by the Young Men's Democratic Club of Missouri. They are Govs. Dunne of Illinois, Stanley of Kentucky and Major of Missouri. Maj. J. Lilly of Moberly, president of the club, says the meeting will be one of the most largely attended rallies ever held in Missouri.

Telephone Co. Asks Change.

Representatives of the Bell Telephone Company have appeared before public service commission and asked for changes in the commercial rates for a limited period in order that they may be tried out. On some classes of business the rates appear to be a little lower, and on others there is a slight increase. It is estimated an increase in revenue of about \$80,000 will follow the change.

Attended Lincoln Day Banquet.

Many of the old-time G. O. P. leaders around the capital attended the Lincoln Day banquet at Kansas City on the 12th. Among those who went were Henry Andrus, former warden of the state penitentiary; William C. Irwin, prosecuting attorney David W. Peters, collector A. E. Blaser, A. J. Bauer, member of the state committee; E. T. Billat and George Sullivan.

Convict Kills Another.

Carl Caldwell, a St. Louis convict serving a life sentence for murder, was killed almost instantly by H. L. Courtwright, a convict from Kansas City. Courtwright struck Caldwell on the head with a hammer while the men were at work in the saddle tree factory. Prison officials learned after the killing that the men had quarreled and words had passed between them several times. Caldwell was sentenced March 25, 1915, and was a hard man to handle.

Concert Halls in Missouri.

There are 858 theaters, movies, museums and concert halls, 2 circuses and 108 other exhibition and amusement places in Missouri, according to information filed by the owners of such places who are required by the federal statute to contribute to Uncle Sam for the privilege of conducting these parlors. There are also 4,449 billiard and pool tables and 8,482 bowling alleys.

Board of Equalization in Session.

The State Board of Equalization is to meet at the capital this week, and many questions of importance will come up before the body. It is composed of the five highest officers in the state as follows: Governor Major, Secretary of State Trench, Auditor Gordon, Treasurer Deal and Attorney General Barker. The attention of these officials has been called many indiscrepancies in the present method of assessing and raising taxes. Most of the property in the state is assessed at a fair value.

Citizens Ask New Line.

William Sessinghaus, president of a civic improvement league in St. Louis, has made application to the state public service commission in the matter of asking better transportation facilities for certain parts of the great city. He asks that the United Railways be required to build a line which will provide adequate east and west street car facilities for North St. Louis. He says the district is badly neglected, and that in spite of the universal transfer system two fares are sometimes paid.

THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE

Results Following Settlement Show That Conditions in Western Canada Are Highly Satisfactory.

Until a few years ago Mr. Henry Lohmann lived at Effingham, Ill. He thought he would better his condition in a new country, where he would have wider scope for his farming operations. It would not seem essential to refer to Mr. Lohmann, at this particular time, as of German blood, but for the fact that so many false statements have gone out as to ill treatment of Germans in Canada.

Writing from Willmott, Sask., under date of January 30, 1916, Mr. Lohmann says: